

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for retrieving data from a sequential storage device on which blocks of data corresponding to multiple threads are stored in an intermingled fashion, comprising:
 - reading a log, wherein the log identifies a sequence in which blocks of data corresponding to multiple threads are stored on a sequential storage device;
 - identifying at least a portion of the blocks of data corresponding to one of the threads;
 - and
 - indexing to the location of the identified portion of the blocks of data in the sequence of blocks of data stored on the sequential device according to the log.
2. The method of claim 1; wherein indexing to the location of the identified portion of the blocks of data in the sequence comprises counting a first number of blocks preceding the identified portion of the blocks in the log and advancing the first number of blocks on the sequential device.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising retrieving the identified portion of the blocks of data from the sequential storage device.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the log includes indications of file marks in the stored blocks of data and wherein indexing to the location of the identified portion of the blocks of data in the sequence comprises counting a first number of file marks preceding the identified portion of the blocks in the log and advancing the first number of file marks on the sequential device.
5. The method of claim 4, further comprising retrieving the identified portion of the blocks of data from the sequential storage device.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the blocks of data on the sequential storage device and writing the log prior to reading the log.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein each entry in the log identifies a corresponding thread and a number of blocks stored consecutively on the sequential storage device.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein each thread is identified by a corresponding device identifier.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the log is stored on the sequential storage device and the log is read from the sequential storage device.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the log is stored on a storage medium separate from the sequential storage device and the log is read from the separate storage medium.

11. A method for managing storage of blocks of data on a sequential storage device, wherein blocks of data corresponding to multiple threads are stored on the sequential storage device in an intermingled fashion, comprising:

storing a sequence of blocks of data on a sequential storage device, wherein the blocks of data correspond to multiple write threads and wherein blocks corresponding to different write threads are intermingled on the sequential storage device;
recording the order in which the blocks of data are stored in a log; and
storing the log.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein recording the order in which the blocks of data are stored comprises recording entries corresponding to write commands in the log.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising storing the log on the sequential storage device.

14. The method of claim 11, further comprising storing the log on a storage medium which is separate from the sequential storage device.

15. The method of claim 11, further comprising identifying at least a portion of the blocks of data corresponding to one of the threads, identifying the position of entries corresponding to the identified portion of the blocks of data in the log, and indexing to the location of the identified portion of the blocks of data in the sequence of blocks of data stored on the sequential device based upon the identified portion of the blocks of data in the log.

16. A system for managing blocks of data on a sequential storage device, wherein blocks of data corresponding to multiple threads are stored on the sequential storage device in an intermingled fashion, comprising:

a sequential storage device configured to store intermingled blocks of data corresponding to multiple threads;

a copy manager coupled to the sequential storage device and configured to manage the retrieval of copying of desired blocks of data from the sequential storage device; and

a memory coupled to the copy manager and configured to store a sequence in which blocks of data corresponding to multiple threads are stored on the sequential storage device;

wherein the copy manager is configured to identify the position of the desired blocks of data in the sequence stored in the memory, to advance to a corresponding storage location on the sequential storage device without reading each of the preceding stored blocks of data, and to retrieve the desired blocks of data from the sequential storage device.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the copy manager is further configured to store the sequence of the stored data blocks in the memory.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the copy manager is configured to copy data to the sequential storage device according to a plurality of extended copy commands.

19. The system of claim 16, further comprising one or more hosts coupled to the copy manager, wherein the copy manager is configured to store the blocks of data on the sequential storage device according to extended copy commands issued by the one or more hosts.

20. The system of claim 19, further comprising a plurality of data sources, wherein the copy manager is configured to copy data from each of the plurality of data sources in a plurality of corresponding threads.

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21. The system of claim 16, wherein the copy manager is implemented in a switch fabric.
22. The system of claim 16, wherein the copy manager is implemented in a network attached device.

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23. A software product comprising one or more instructions embodied in a medium readable by a data processor, wherein the instructions are configured to cause the data processor to execute the method comprising:

reading a log, wherein the log identifies a sequence in which blocks of data corresponding to multiple threads are stored on a sequential storage device;
identifying at least a portion of the blocks of data corresponding to one of the threads;
and
indexing to the location of the identified portion of the blocks of data in the sequence of blocks of data stored on the sequential device according to the log.